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May 17, 1978

Professor Joshua Lederberg  
President Designate  
The Rockefeller University  
1230 York Avenue  
New York, New York 10021

Dear Professor Lederberg:

Upon my return to Berkeley I examined the relevant section of the President's papers concerning appointments to the staff in the late 1950s. Indeed the appointment was downplayed in the President's office, but for reasons entirely unrelated to your accomplishments in the field of genetics. There were two cases of professors who wished to hire a close relative, in one case his wife, that required judgment on the part of the President in view of a regulation that existed against such practices. Until these cases were adjudicated the President's office did not wish to set any precedents by bringing you to the campus and hiring your wife in the same department. There is very little material on the case after this point in 1957 and I am not sure why it was not pursued later. You might wish to consult Michael Lerner's and the Department of Genetics' papers now at the American Philosophical Society. I intend to keep in mind your generous offer to make your side of the correspondence available for serious students of UCB history of that period.

✓ Thank you for being such a kind host at the recent meeting of the Charles Babbage Institute. I enjoyed the meeting very much and hope for significant contributions of the Institute.

Yours sincerely,

✓  
Arthur L. Norberg  
Coordinator  
History of Science and  
Technology Program

ALN:dkf

*This letter  
in particular!*